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14	DISTRICT OF ARIZONA		
15	Roy and Josie Fisher, et al.,	Case No. 4:74-CV-00090-DCB	
16	Plaintiffs,		
17	V.	MENDOZA PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO TUSD SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE	
18	United States of America,	AND REPORT OF COMPLIANCE ANI LIMITED REQUEST FOR RELIEF	
19	Plaintiff-Intervenors,	FROM ORDER (DOC. 2500)	
20	v.		
21	Anita Lohr, et al.,	Hon. David C. Bury	
22	Defendants,		
23	Sidney L. Sutton, et al.,		
24	Defendant-Intervenors,		
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Plaintiffs,

Tucson United School District No. One, et al.,

Defendants.

Plaintiff-Intervenor,

Case No. CV 74-204 TUC DCB

INTRODUCTION

Maria Mendoza, et al.,

United States of America,

v.

Under the September 6, 2018 Order ("9/6/18 Order") (Doc. 2123), this Court required TUSD to develop the ALE Policy Manual "to guide the District's future decisions related to ALE programs" because it "f[ound] that *de jure* discrimination has not been eliminated to the extent practicable as planned in the action plans" in this USP area of the school district's operations (9/6/18 Order at 12:8-10, 98:17-19). The Court's more recent 6/15/20 Order re: ALE Policy Manual ("6/15/20 Order") (Doc. 2474) expressly incorporated the 9/6/18 Order's ALE discussion (at 2:7-16) and addressed the ALE Policy Manual's compliance with that Order and the USP.

In TUSD's Supplemental Notice and Report of Compliance and Limited Request for Relief From Order ("TUSD Notice and Request") (Doc. 2500), TUSD complains that this Court's 6/15/20 Order required it "to develop new policies and plans for guiding future" District action, which it says "go beyond the Special Master's report, and on which the District has not had the opportunity to be heard." TUSD is wrong and its assertions are misleading. The 6/15/20 Order was directed at ensuring that the ALE Policy Manual

completion plan comports to the existing requirements of the 9/6/18 Order and brings TUSD into compliance with the USP.¹ (*See* 6/15/20 Order at 4-6 (detailing 9/6/18 ALE Policy Manual Requirements under the heading "September 6, 2018, Unitary Status Order").)²

As detailed more fully below, the District's request for relief from portions of the 6/15/20 Order is premised on its inaccurate framing of the Court's ALE Policy Manual directives (in the 9/6/18 and 6/15/20 Orders) as so unforgivingly rigid that this completion plan would "become worthless" and even harmful to students' academic achievement (TUSD Notice and Request at 5: 14-18), rather than viewing the ALE Policy Manual as a guide to facilitate viable ALE expansion informed by what TUSD has learned from its past experience expanding some ALEs and programs, and that includes strategies to deal with resource issues that may arise as this Court expressly contemplated (*see e.g.*, 6/15/20 Order at 17:22-25). Moreover, as also set out below, there remain directives in the 6/15/20 Order (including directives originally in the 9/6/18 Order or the USP) with respect to which TUSD has yet to comply.

For ease of reference, after addressing the District's overall objection to having been directed to include plans for ALE expansion in the ALE Policy Manual, Mendoza Plaintiffs have ordered the topics set out below in the order in which they appear in the

¹ The deadline for the District to move this Court to reconsider its 9/6/18 Order lapsed in September 2018. (*See* L.R. Civ. 7.2(g)(2).) The District's deadline to move for reconsideration of the 6/15/20 Order lapsed on June 29, 2020. (*Id.*) Accordingly, this Court may properly decline to consider the District's request for relief, which is, in effect, a motion for reconsideration.

² Moreover, TUSD's assertion to the contrary notwithstanding, the District already had an opportunity to be heard on its complaint that completion plans reflect new requirements -- and this Court expressly rejected that assertion. (9/6/18 Order at 12:7-10 ("The Court rejects the Defendant's objection to completion plans as new requirements, not contained in the USP....").)

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Court's 6/15/20 Order.³ They have included their responses to the District's specific requests for relief beyond that relating to the overall direction to plan for expansion in their arguments relating to the relevant topic.

ARGUMENT

Schedule for ALE Growth and Expansion

The Mendoza Plaintiffs here address the District's request for relief from the 6/15/20 Order's directives concerning growth across various ALEs. (TUSD Notice and Request at 4:12-21.)

Ignoring the 6/15/20 Order language contemplating that the ALE Policy Manual is to serve as a "transparent guide for the future," (emphasis added), TUSD asserts that this Court is "demand[ing] a level of precision [for future ALE expansion] that would be impossible" in light of uncertainty as to future budget, student enrollment, and availability of qualified teachers. (TUSD Notice and Request at 5:6-14.) TUSD further asserts that the claimed rigidity of this Court's ALE expansion directives will result in a "worthless" plan" that will harm progress and will be "misleading to the school community." (Id. at 14-19.)

This Court should reject the District's request for relief because it is based on an inaccurate framing of the 6/15/20 Order's directives and ignores the long history of multiyear desegregation plans or guides in this case notwithstanding that they too involved varying degrees of "uncertainty". Mendoza Plaintiffs further observe that the District's argument would suggest that it is incapable of doing any future planning because to some

³ If a topic is omitted, that indicates that the Mendoza Plaintiffs have no comments or objections relating to that specific topic.

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degree all educational planning must be carried out in the context of budgetary constraints, student enrollment, and the ability to hire and retain qualified teachers. However, the purpose of a plan also is to set budget and hiring priorities and trade offs, all of which the District apparently now is claiming an inability to do.

Further, this Court has long asked the District to engage in planning "to guide the District in the future" toward viable ALE growth. (6/15/20 Order at 2:13-16; see also 9/6/18 Order at 98:6-11 ("The ALE Policy Manual should guide the District's ongoing operation of the ALE Program pursuant to chosen effective strategies. The District has identified various ALE strategies ... and it must now determine whether these strategies were sufficiently effective and are fiscally sustainable to warrant permanency, including a determination that the District can meet staffing and transportation requirements").) This Court further called for built-in flexibility in the ALE Policy Manual in recognition that there exists some uncertainty in setting policies for future ALE growth planning. (See e.g., 6/15/20 Order at 9:5-9 (recognizing resource limitations may change as a result of selfcontained or cluster GATE demands); 10:23-24 (authorizing the use of waitlists if expansion of the "opt-out" enrollment policy causes resource issues); 10:13-15 (noting that TUSD failed to address stipends as a mechanism to address potential future certified GATE teacher shortage); 20:15-17 (allowing for in-district student preferences and limits to UHS's BLAST, BOOST, BOUNCE programs "to the extent resources limit" them). These directives do not be peak a Court order requiring impossible adherence to precise mandates that render the plan harmful or worthless; rather, the Court's orders plainly called for a guide that is to reflect that TUSD has thought through issues and policies to facilitate its implementation of viable ALE expansion targets.

Moreover, TUSD ignores the history of this case in failing to provide any plan or schedule for ALE growth (with respect to, for example, introducing one CRC AP course at each high school and one CRC AAC at every middle school (*see* 6/15/20 Order at 17:5-10)) because it says it cannot predict viable expansion years into the future based on its assertion that it cannot forecast future budgets, student enrollment, or the exact numbers of teachers at each school each year. (TUSD Notice and Request at 5:6-14.) This Court will remember, for example, that the 2015 CRC Intervention Plan (Doc. 1761, Exhibit A), the implementation of which this Court found resulted in significant expansion of CRC access and enrollment (notwithstanding hiccups in its implementation), was a three-year plan to introduce multiple CRCs across every TUSD high school, middle school, and K-8 school, and at many elementary schools. (*See* Doc. 1761, Exhibit A at 7-12.) Plainly, TUSD's claimed barriers did not result in this plan having been "worthless" and harmful to students' academic achievement.

Further, because this Court stressed the importance of transparency in the ALE Policy Manual, and to address TUSD's concern about potentially "misleading [] the school community" (TUSD Notice and Request at 6:24-25), Mendoza Plaintiffs see no reason why TUSD could not simply expressly acknowledge the existence of future uncertainty or potential resource limitations in the ALE Policy Manual itself. Similarly, to the extent uncertainties are heightened by the impacts of COVID (as stated by the District in its Notice and Request at 5:8-9), something all understand, that, too, can be explicitly stated. By way of example, with respect to the phased in plan for growing AVID, TUSD can expressly state that future uncertainties may result in shifting introduction of AVID to a school in which such introduction has become more viable over a school that initially was

scheduled for such introduction. Indeed, such an approach was successfully taken with respect to the implementation of the multi-year facilities plan (containing a prioritized list of needed facilities projects) -- an area in which TUSD already has attained unitary status.⁴ Specifically, while TUSD generally undertook facilities repair projects based on USPmandated priority under the Multi-Year Facilities Plan, it also considered budget constraints in determining the order in which repairs were made. (See Appendix IX-3 to TUSD 2016-17 Annual Report, Multi-Year Facilities Plan (Doc. 2067-1) at IX-3, p.7 (In response to question "What should we do first?": "This will reflect not only [USP] priority [such as projects addressing safety issues and projects at schools with low FCI scores], but adequate budget and appropriate budget decisions as well.")) Accordingly, nothing about the plans or schedules for ALE growth called for by this Court suggest that these components of the ALE Policy Manual would be materially different from other planning that the District has done to implement the USP, much less worthless or harmful to academic achievement.⁵

⁴ TUSD was awarded partial unitary status as to Facilities except with respect to its recalculation of the facilities condition index scores to ensure that agreed upon criteria are used. (9/6/18 Order at 151:9-13.) (Mendoza Plaintiffs note their on-going objection to any award of unitary status given the District's failure to have met Constitutional dictates for such an award but do observe that the District demonstrated the ability to do multi-year planning in this area.)

⁵ On the contrary, TUSD likely is much better positioned to comply with this Court's 6/15/20 Order directives for planning for viable ALE growth than it was with respect to past planning efforts because it now has the benefit of experience from which it should have learned about ALE demand and resource need. For example, in the 6/15/20 Order, this Court detailed TUSD's past expansion of AP and AACs at schools where the Court had identified need for immediate improvement before observing that "[t]hese undertakings would have informed resource and demand assessments for ALE policies for future planning purposes, but the ALE Policy Manual stopped short of clarifying ALE policies for future growth... [and] fails to reflect the demand analysis used by the District for determining the number of AP courses at each high school based on needed access." (6/15/20 Order at 17:15-18-2.)

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This Court should accordingly deny the District's request for relief from this Court's orders calling for schedules for ALE expansion. (See TUSD Notice and Request at 4:22-7:15.)

AVID and a Plan for AVID Expansion

The Mendoza Plaintiffs here address both the changes the District made to the ALE Policy Manual to respond to the Court's Order of 6/15/20 and its explanation for why it requests relief from so much of that Order as directed the District to clarify its phased in plan for growing AVID to attain the goal of becoming an AVID District.

Even as it claims to have embraced the goal of becoming an AVID District, TUSD asserts in its request for relief (ALE Notice and Request at 7-8) as well as in the ALE Policy Manual itself (ALE Policy Manual at 31 and Appendix A at 47)⁶ that it cannot provide **any** information about how it intends to expand AVID. Yet, as this Court expressly noted in its 9/6/18 Order, in its own District-created ALE Action Plan (Doc.

Indeed, Mendoza Plaintiffs respectfully suggest that perhaps the District's perception that future uncertainties preclude planning for viable ALE growth is at least in part based on its

failure to adequately consider demand and resource analysis as it relates to past ALE experiences, including that reference by the Court as noted above.

⁶ Notwithstanding the Court's admonitions in this regard (see, e.g., 6/15/20 Order at 3:13-19), the District's filing fails to include all relevant information in its revised ALE Policy Manual. Thus TUSD reports that it is "developing Utterback...into an AVID National Demonstration school" only in its pleading (ALE Notice and Request at 7:22-23) but not in the ALE Policy Manual itself. (See ALE Policy Manual at 30-31 and Appendix A.) Yet, according to the Arizona Snapshot entry on the AVID website (avid.org), designation as a National Demonstration School, if achieved, is not insignificant. According to the website such schools "are supposed to be exemplary models of the AVID College Readiness System." Additionally, such schools "undergo a rigorous validation process and are required to be revalidated every few years to ensure high levels of implementation, with quality and fidelity to AVID strategies schoolwide." (Id.) Not surprisingly given its silence on the effort now going forward at Utterback, the ALE Policy Manual is similarly silent on whether efforts will be made to attain the National Demonstration School designation for other schools in TUSD or even what criteria were used to select Utterback for this effort and what criteria will be applied in the future if other schools are to be included.

expansion could take place over a multi-year period." (9/6/18 Order at 96:1-3.)

Significantly, the District now not only asserts that it cannot provide a timetable for a further rollout of AVID; it fails even to offer either a target date for full District-wide implementation or a statement of what criteria it will apply to determine the order in which it will implement AVID at particular schools going forward.

The District's response to the Court's 6/15/20 Order also fails to address additional ways in which AVID can be expanded beyond rolling the program out at a new school. This is a significant omission given that, as the Court has noted, AVID is a "strategy [as distinct from a program that dictates the creation of a new class to provide access]...which creates an atmosphere of academic excellence in a school to offset stereotype threat and increase participation in ALE." (6/15/20 Order at 16:11-13; emphasis added.) An example of what is missing is found in Appendix A to the ALE Policy Manual which states that the District AVID Coordinator currently is working with the MASSD to develop a tutor-training curriculum that incorporates AVID strategies. (Appendix A at 48.) Surely, the District could readily plan to implement such a curriculum for tutoring offered through the AASD (and, for that matter, throughout the District, beyond the tutoring specifically offered by the Student Services Departments).

AVID and ELL Students

Additionally, notably absent in the section of the ALE Policy Manual relating to AVID as well as in the section concerning "the support services available to ELL students, which are designed to address the fact that they are learning English" (Order dated 6/15/20 at 14:17-18, addressed in the ALE Policy Manual at 16-17 according to the TUSD Index of Issues Addressed from ECF 2474, Doc. 2500-3, at Item # 18) is any discussion of the ways

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in which the AVID program is being used or is planned to be used to increase the access to ALEs of the District's ELL students. In this regard Mendoza Plaintiffs note that the AVID website (avid.org) expressly identifies the Long-Term English Learners Can Excel elective class and states that it "provides explicit instruction in English language development and academic language through reading, writing, oral language, academic vocabulary, and college readiness skills." Mendoza Plaintiffs have seen nothing in the ALE Policy Manual and Appendix A to indicate whether the District now offers this elective (and where). Nor, given the District's failure to provide any indication of any of its plans for AVID expansion, does the ALE Policy Manual indicate whether there is any intention to add (if already offered somewhere in the District) or expand this elective in the future.

Because it is relevant both to the discussion of current AVID offerings and plans as well as to supports for ELL students to prepare for ALE courses, Mendoza Plaintiffs also note here that notwithstanding the Court's repeated statements of concern relating to the District's failures to address the particular supports needed by its ELL students (*see*, *e.g.*, 6/15/20 Order at 14:7-19) neither the ALE Policy Manual nor Appendix A indicate whether and to what extent the District now uses (or plans to add or expand its use of) AVID's instructional models for AVID teachers that explicitly embed ELL strategies. (*See* avid.org and English Language Learners.)

Based on the foregoing discussion, Mendoza Plaintiffs request the Court to deny the District's request that it be relieved from its directions that it plan for AVID expansion and that it order the District to revise the ALE Policy Manual to address the deficiencies in the present manual that are set forth above.

Self-Contained GATE

Through a request for relief in TUSD's Notice and Request, the District avoids having to acknowledge that it has again failed to comply with this Court's repeated order that it identify plans for the growth of self-contained and cluster GATE programs in the District. (*See* 6/15/20 Order at 8:12-13.) As a result of this significant omission, TUSD has again "sidestep[ed] the Court's directive that the District consider whether long travel times to the self-contained GATE schools depress enrollment or if availability is limited by GATE-certified teacher shortages." (*See id.* at 8:12-15.) This District failure is of particular concern because, as this Court recognized, "one of the reasons most frequently given for why families decide not to send their qualified students to self-contained programs is transportation." (9/16/18 Order at 37:7-9.)⁸

This Court further ordered the District to "clarify in the ALE Policy Manual," expressly, that limited resources do not impede future growth in self-contained, including cluster, GATE programs based on prioritizing viable growth of this ALE program at specific schools, with Erickson ES or Magee K-8 being considered as top priorities because both are large schools with over 20% African American students." (6/15/20 Order at 9:1-5.) The District's statement that "limited financial resources do not impede immediate growth for Self-Contained or Cluster-GATE programs" (ALE Policy Manual at 14) fails to comply with this Court's order because it is rendered meaningless in the

Mendoza Plaintiffs further observe that while the ALE Policy Manual cited transportation travel time as it relates to the TWDL GATE program at Hollinger, that discussion failed to address whether travel times "depress enrollment" at that school and entirely omitted such analysis as to all other self-contained GATE programs.

⁸ This issue is further discussed in the argument section below relating to the Transportation Plan.

 absence of any discussion of viable GATE growth in specific schools. Nor does the District's statement that it will "consider whether Cluster GATE can be expanded to Erickson in the future" (id. at 14, n.5; emphasis added) comport with this Court's order that Erickson be a "top priority" for viable growth of self-contained GATE, including Cluster GATE.

The District seemingly suggests that there exists no need for, or no limitations to, expanding self-contained GATE to meet need "[b]ecause the total number of GATE-qualified students across the entire District that did not enter a GATE program in SY 2018-19 was only 64, including only 5 African American students...." (ALE Policy Manual at 8.) This misleading analysis conflates all GATE programs with the result that the need for self-contained GATE expansion gets buried. By way of example, the ALE Progress Report makes clear that 22 -- not 5 -- African American students out of 42 (or 52%) who qualified for self-contained GATE were not enrolled in that program in 2018-19. (ALE Progress Report, Doc. 2267-2 at 20.) That some of these African American students may have instead enrolled in GATE programs that offer a lesser experience than the self-contained GATE program they qualified for does not address or absolve the District from planning for viable self-contained GATE growth available to all who qualify.

Accordingly, the District should be ordered to take action to immediately plan for the GATE expansion as ordered by this Court, including that Erickson be prioritized for future growth of the program, and that the clarification concerning whether limited resources impede growth particularly of self-contained GATE for all who qualify be provided within the context of planned viable growth of this ALE program at specific schools.

Opt-Out Enrollment

In the 6/15/20 Order, following this Court's directive that TUSD plan for viable self-contained GATE growth (with Erickson or Magee as "top priorities"), this Court ordered the District to also "introduce the opt-out policy for self-contained GATE at the start of SY 2020-21" and that "the opt-out policy should [further] apply to pull-out GATE...." (6/15/20 Order at 9:1-5, 9:18-20, 10:21-23, 11:3.) Because this Court recognized that these directives to provide access and enrollment to GATE to all qualifying students (who do not opt-out) potentially "may overwhelm [TUSD's] resources, especially for GATE certified teachers," this Court provided TUSD flexibility by allowing the "use of waiting lists in SY 2020-21," raising the issue of stipends to increase the number of GATE certified teachers, and requesting clarification for a phased in plan for implementing the opt-out policy in pull-out GATE.

However, in the ALE Policy Manual, TUSD has significantly narrowed the scope of the GATE expansion effort this Court ordered. The District has declined to put forth any plan for self-contained GATE expansion, limited the self-contained GATE opt-out policy to only "students who are *already* enrolled" at White and Pistor (only two of nine self-contained GATE programs), and refused clarifying any phased in plan for implementing the opt-out policy in pull-out GATE. (*See* ALE Policy Manual at 8; TUSD Notice and Request 4-7.) Unfortunately, the District's failure to comply with this Court's 6/15/20 directives for the 2020-21 school year (which has now commenced) means that the expansion of students' access and enrollment in self-contained and pull out GATE that this Court contemplated must now wait until the 2021-22 school year.

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Further, the District inaccurately purports to address this Court's related directives concerning waitlists and a phased in plan where it asserts the following: "Because the total number of GATE-qualified students across the entire District that did not enter a GATE program in SY 2018-19 was only 64, including only 5 African American students, the District does not anticipate a need to develop or implement a phased in plan or waiting list for automatically enrolling these students." (ALE Policy Manual at 8.)

The District is wrong for two reasons. First, TUSD's claim that it lacks any need for a waiting list or phased in plan is premised on TUSD's significantly narrowing of the 6/15/20 directives concerning growth of self-contained GATE and implementation of the opt-out enrollment policy. Second, as detailed in the section above concerning selfcontained GATE, TUSD's analysis concerning African American students' self-contained GATE enrollment conflates all GATE programs and is therefore misleading. Indeed, TUSD's ALE Progress Report makes clear that 22 of 42 (52%) of African American students who qualified for self-contained GATE, and 182 of 286 (64%) of Latinos who qualified, were not enrolled in that program in 2018-19. (ALE Progress Report at 20.) Further, a total of 413 students across the District who qualified for self-contained GATE in 2018-19 did not enroll in that program, not the 64 that TUSD suggests. (Compare Id. with ALE Policy Manual at 8, 14 (TUSD "provides GATE services to all students who qualify.").) Thus, plainly, TUSD's assessment that it does not need a phased-in plan to implement the opt-out policy or waiting lists is premised on its non-compliance with the 6/15/20 Order, and the District, therefore, has also failed to comply with the directives

concerning the use of waiting lists and the phased-in policy. This Court should reject the District's attempt to again sidestep the growth of access and enrollment for all students qualifying for self-contained and pull-out GATE that this Court ordered.

Accordingly, Mendoza Plaintiffs respectfully request that the District be ordered to immediately comply with the above-discussed directives. Mendoza Plaintiffs further respectfully suggest that because implementation of the opt-out policy directives this Court ordered must now wait for the 2021-22 school year, TUSD has ample time to carefully assess GATE demand and resource needs based on its past experience, and to carefully plan for the GATE expansion and phased-in opt-out plan this Court ordered in its 6/15/20 Order.

ALE and AP Tutoring

Unfortunately, the District has failed to fully provide the clarification this Court ordered be included in the ALE Policy Manual relating to the role teachers are to play in students' receipt of ALE and AP tutoring. While this Court ordered that clarification be provided that teachers will be available to students "through the use of advisory/intervention or conference periods" (6/15/20 Order at 16:7-10), the District makes no reference to these periods in the ALE Policy Manual, what these periods are, or

⁹ This Court requested that TUSD "confirm that there are no waiting lists and students are not turned away from GATE programs, especially self-contained and cluster GATE," noting that it "considers the need to stop ALE enrollment because seats are no longer available to be the same as turning students away." (6/15/20 Order at 10:19-21, n.8.)

With respect to the phased in plan for implementing the opt-out enrollment policy, this Court ordered that the plan be "based on identified limitations, including certified staffing needs for GATE itinerant teachers, with possible remedies, such as teacher stipends, factored into the assessment equation to determine a viable phased in schedule for applying the opt-out policy to pull-out GATE beginning in SY 2020-21." (*Id.* at 11:23-12:2.)

how they relate to the unidentified "pivotal role" teachers play in disseminating tutoring services. (*Compare* ALE Policy Manual at 17 with 6/15/20 Order at 15:11-16:10 (detailing that the advisory/intervention or conference periods TUSD has elsewhere used facilitate teachers' ability to assess when students need extra help and whether tutoring should be provided in individual or group settings).) Accordingly, this Court should order TUSD to provide the complete clarification this Court requested in its 6/15/20 Order.

CRC ALE Course Development and ALE Course Expansion

Because the District refused to develop or provide any plan or clarification concerning a schedule to expand ALE programs at any schools (by requesting relief from those directives), TUSD has failed to comply with almost all of this Court's 6/15/20 Order directives in its discussion of "CRC ALE Course Development" (at 16:27-18:15).

Mendoza Plaintiffs above addressed why this Court should reject TUSD's request for relief from these directives, and therefore here simply detail each 6/15/20 Order directive in this area with respect to which TUSD has failed to comply and as to which it has requested relief (the last two of which are also addressed in the Santa Rita section below):

- The ALE Policy Manual shall clarify the phased-in timeline (plan) for offering at least one CRC AP course at every other high school [other than UHS] and at least one CRC AAC at every middle school.
- The ALE Policy Manual shall clarify what the 'appropriate ALE opportunities' means for future planning purposes, especially for AP and Dual Credit courses.
- The ALE Policy shall determine the optimal number for ALE courses by type and set target numbers for each school.

¹⁰ Mendoza Plaintiffs recognize that the District has provided clarification that "the dual purpose, AP/Dual Credit, policy may apply to CRC AP courses as well." (6/15/20 Order at 17:9-10.)

- The ALE Policy Manual shall clarify the phased in schedule for, accordingly, growing the HS-CC Dual Credit program at all high schools, except Santa Rita HS.
- The ALE Policy Manual shall clarify a phased in schedule for, accordingly, growing the AP program at all high schools, with a priority placed on growing AP courses at Santa Rita and Catalina.

(6/15/20 Order at 17:5-7, 18:8-15.)

Accordingly, Mendoza Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court deny TUSD's request for relief and order it to immediately comply with each above-cited directive.

Santa Rita/Dual Credit

The ALE Policy Manual reports that Santa Rita has increased its AP offerings from one to two (and the number of AP sections from one to two) (ALE Policy Manual at 26) but fails to demonstrate that this is a "viable target number for providing equal access to the extent practicable for African American and Latino students to this ALE at Santa Rita HS." (6/15/20 Order at 18:17-20.) Further, because TUSD has declined to engage in the assessments ordered by the Court, it offers no showing of what a viable target number is and has failed to respond to the Court's express statement that it "wants estimates of participation to be based on other school's demands for AP courses, not just the alleged lack of demand at Santa Rita HS." (*Id.* at 19:4-5.) Again, because it has declined to plan, the District also has failed to comply with the Court's order that "the ALE Policy Manual shall clarify a phased in schedule for...growing the AP program at all high schools, with a priority placed on growing AP courses at Santa Rita and Catalina high schools." (*Id.* at 18: 13-15.)

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Similarly, notwithstanding the Court's express adoption in the 6/15/20 Order of the Special Master's recommendation that "Dual Credit (HS-CC) courses need to be expanded beyond existing levels of 'one or more'" and its specific order that "the ALE Policy Manual shall clarify a viable target number for Dual Credit courses for future planned growth of ALE, if any" (6/15/20 Order at 19:7-11), the District has failed to do so, relying on its general objection to having been ordered to plan.

Accordingly, the District should be ordered to take action to immediately plan for the expansion of AP classes through out the District with priority attention to Santa Rita and Catalina High schools and the expansion of Dual Credit (HS-CC) courses at all high schools other than Santa Rita, and to revise the ALE Policy Manual accordingly.

UHS

It appears that the District has generally followed the Court's directions concerning UHS policies and programs to be included in the ALE Policy Manual. However, there is both a lack of clarity and an apparent inconsistency in the documents that the District has prepared.

At page 36 of the ALE Policy Manual, TUSD repeats word for word the Court's statement that it should clarify that "the revised norming rubric, retesting option for borderline test scores, and the CogAt test preparation sessions are UHS policies, not pilot strategies." (Compare 6/15/20 Order at 20:3-5 with ALE Policy Manual (last sentence of the paragraph that begins "Students who want to attend....").) But the "revised norming rubric" is nowhere explained. Further, there appears to be an inconsistency between language in the body of the ALE Policy Manual and the attached UHS Admissions Policy. As directed by the Court and consistent with current policy, the ALE Policy Manual says

"Seventh grade students who score a six stanine are invited to retest in 8th grade" (ALE

Policy Manual at 36) but the Admissions Policy says "Applicants who achieve a composite

stanine score of 6 or below are not permitted to retest for Freshman admissions" and states

that the only 8th graders who may be tested are those who were absent for their scheduled

test. (ALE Policy Manual at 50, 55.) These inconsistencies in the Admissions Policy

Pre-AP Mapping

should be corrected.¹¹

Having been ordered in September 2018 to "redesign [Pre-AP¹²] courses...to ensure students successfully transition from Pre-AP to AP programs "based on the Court's finding of a "critical need for Pre-AP courses to be effective pipelines to AP courses, including the AP curriculum offered at UHS" (9/6/18 Order at 74:13-15, 19-21), and directed in the Court's more recent Order of 6/15/20 (Doc. 2474) to "confirm, expressly that it has mapped the pre-AP courses to align with the College Board standards for AP courses to ensure to the extent practicable that Pre-AP courses are a successful means for increasing student access in AP courses" (6/15/20 Order at 21:23-22:1), the District now reports that it has not done so and that it "has no current plans to offer 'Pre-AP' courses in this College Board sense, or to map its curricula for honors, advanced or accelerated courses to specific AP courses." (ALE Notice and Request at 13:1-3.) Further it states that it declines to do so – and requests relief from the Court's 6/15/20 Order (apparently ignoring the fact that the Court's 9/6/18 Order is identical in this regard).

UHS and more general District collaborations.

¹¹ When it makes those corrections, the District may also want to revise references to the 2019-20 school year on pages 42 and 44 of the ALE Policy Manual in its discussions of

¹² The USP expressly defines Pre-AP courses as those "formerly referred to as 'Honors', 'Accelerated', or 'Advanced'." USP Section V, A, 2, a.

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This request must be denied (and its underlying actions should be considered by the Court when it determines whether the District has acted in good faith to perform all of its obligations under the USP) because the two orders it has violated call for action that is **explicitly mandated by the USP**. USP Section V, A, 4 plainly states that the District shall "[i]mprove the quality of **Pre-AP**¹³ and AP courses by making these courses subject to audit by the College Board…." (Emphasis added.)

In its filing, the District implies that the directive that it map Pre-AP courses to align with College Board standards is somehow new or unexpected. Yet, it not only is stated in the USP; it also was the subject of extensive discussion in this Court's September 2018 Order.¹⁴

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"The Court notes that the value of ...access [to Pre-APP courses] is limited unless the District ensures that these Pre-AP courses effectively function as pipelines for AP programs, including UHS.

Both Plaintiffs and the Special Master note problems with Pre-AP course effectiveness. The Special Master asserts there is no evidence that existing Pre-AP classes serve as a pipeline to enrollment and successful completion of AP and other rigorous high school classes and whether and to what extent the Pre-AP classes need to be redesigned to accomplish this stated goal. As the Fisher Plaintiffs articulately explain, it is not enough to just increase the numbers of Pre-AP courses. 'For this to be effective, the criteria and curriculum for these classes need to be aligned with the College Board', and 8th grade and earlier grade standards must be aligned to ensure successful transitions from Pre-AP to AP courses. Both Plaintiffs ask the District to redesign these courses and/or to offer additional student support, inclusive but not limited to tutoring, to ensure students successfully transition from Pre-AP to AP programs. The Mendoza Plaintiffs ask the District to compare the AP success rate for students taking Pre-AP courses versus those transitioning to AP courses from self-contained GATE programs (identifying Magee Middle School as offering Pre-AP programs for comparison with Vail Middle School (INT) offering Selfcontained GATE). Given the critical need for Pre-AP courses to be effective pipelines to AP courses, including the AP curriculum offered at UHS, the Court grants the Plaintiffs' request."

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(9/6/18 Order at 74: 1-21; citations omitted.)

Again, Pre-AP is expressly defined to include Honors, Accelerated, and Advanced classes. USP Section V, A, 2, a.

¹⁴ This Court wrote, *inter alia*:

Significantly, the District offers absolutely no explanation for why it has failed to implement the USP and comply with Court orders. Instead, it offers its **belief** that taking the advanced academic courses it currently offers in middle school can help prepare students to take more rigorous courses in high school. (ALE Notice and Request at 12:20-24.) To this the Mendoza Plaintiffs offer the further response that it is far too late in the day for the District to be justifying its educational decisions on the basis of its "belief" rather than analysis, and that such a statement unfortunately reflects an approach that in 2008 led this Court to conclude that TUSD's "failure to assess program effectiveness has impeded its ability to use its resources to the extent practicable to secure minority students equal access to educational opportunity." (4/24/08 Order, Doc. 1270, at 27:14-16.)

Based on the foregoing, in addition to denying the District relief from its orders and the express requirements of the USP, this Court should direct the District to delete the paragraph that runs from page 23 to page 24 of the ALE Policy Manual (commencing with the language "These courses have been at times referred to as 'Pre-AP' courses in the USP...) and replace it with provisions that conform to the USP requirements and this Court's prior orders.

Transportation¹⁵

As an initial matter, Mendoza Plaintiffs are puzzled by the District's objection to what it says was the Court's order to "do detailed studies of its ALE programs, including identification of specific students and specific travel times from those students' residences

¹⁵ Mendoza Plaintiffs of course recognize that transportation to District schools currently is a moot issue given the impact of the coronavirus but the articulation of policies to govern when transportation again is provided as well as compliance with relevant Court orders and the USP remain essential.

to various ALE programs" (ALE Notice and Request at 8:14-16) because they do not read this Court's Order of 6/15/20 to have contained such a directive (although it did call for some limited specific information relating to travel times for students qualifying for self-contained GATE and the ridership of TUSD's express buses).

It is the case that in its Order of 6/4/20 (Doc. 2471), the Court, addressing TUSD's implementation of the USP provisions relating to magnet schools, stated that the "District needs to conduct the transportation assessments in sufficient detail to identify actual transportation services needed for a priority candidate magnet school or non-magnet school, such as: yellow buses, public transportation, contracted services, express shuttle buses, activity buses, incentive transportation from racially concentrated neighborhoods or incentive zones." (6/4/20 Order at 14:13-17.) Thereafter, in its 6/15/20 Order, the Court stated that the Transportation Plan provisions relating to ALEs were to be "[i]nformed by the work of the Comprehensive Integration Plan (CIP) for assessments of travel distances, locations of targeted populations, costs, and other factors..." (6/15/20 Order at 22:12-14). Therefore, Mendoza Plaintiffs believe it is possible that what the District really is objecting to are the assessments called for in the 6/4/20 Order.

In that regard, Mendoza Plaintiffs offer two observations: (1) This Court already has considered and rejected TUSD's objection to having been directed to perform those assessments. (*See* 6/22/20 Order (Doc. 2485), granting in part and denying in part TUSD's motion for reconsideration.) (2) The assessments required by the 6/15/20 Order and the District's planning based thereon are on-going and not due to be filed with the Court until September 1, 2020. Therefore, information and planning that ought inform the ALE Transportation Plan is not yet fully available and plainly cannot have informed the

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Transportation Plan currently before this Court. Mendoza Plaintiffs therefore submit their objections to and comments on the Transportation Plan filed 7/27/20 subject to an overall objection that that Plan is of necessity incomplete, and reserve the right to address ALE portions of the Transportation Plan once that Plan has been further revised to comply with the Court's 6/4/20 Order. Mendoza Plaintiffs also reserve their right to object to the portions of the Transportation Plan relating to magnet and incentive transportation (sections B, C, F (the second F as the plan currently has two sections so dominated), G, and H of the July 2020 Revised Transportation Plan).

Mendoza Plaintiffs object to the Transportation Plan on the grounds that it is not really a plan but, rather, a statement of current transportation policies. (Mendoza Plaintiffs note that they tendered the same objection to the Transportation Plan as originally filed in August 2019. (*See* Mendoza Plaintiffs' Response to TUSD Notice of Filing of 3-Year Plus Integration Plan (Doc. 2275) ("Mendoza 2019 Transportation Response") at 9:20-10:17 and the August 2019 Transportation Plan (Doc. 2270-4).))¹⁷

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¹⁶ Although it does not appear to be relevant to the ALE aspects of the Transportation Plan, Mendoza Plaintiffs comment here on the section entitled Proposed Change to the Interpretation of Incentive Transportation to provide the District an opportunity to address their concerns while it is revising the Plan and thereby avoid objection relating to this provision after that Plan has been filed. Mendoza Plaintiffs believe that the section as drafted lacks needed clarity. As they understand it, the District may create an incentive zone if it concludes that the relevant census tract includes at least 30 students who do not then attend TUSD schools whose attendance at the designated receiving school would help integrate that school. What is unclear is whether the District is undertaking to provide free transportation from the incentive zone to the designated receiving school even if some or all of the students who actually seek to take advantage of that free transportation will NOT help integrate the receiving school If that is the case, the Mendoza Plaintiffs object to the provision and suggest that it fails to comply with the Court's Order of 6/4/20 which explicitly stated that the Court was approving the District's proposal to create "incentive zones" "based upon the same eligibility criteria currently applied to students residing in racially concentrated neighborhoods" (6/4/20 Order at 14, n.10), that is, that their "enrollment will enhance integration at the receiving school." (USP, Section II, G, 2, b.)

¹⁷ Mendoza Plaintiffs note one telling example of the Transportation Plan's failure to serve as a plan although it does not directly relate to transportation to support student

Self-Contained GATE

With respect to transportation to self-contained GATE programs, Mendoza Plaintiffs remain concerned that the District has not demonstrated in the Transportation Plan that routes have been adjusted to address the concern that "one of the main reasons given for not sending qualified students to Self-contained GATE programs is transportation." (9/6/19 Order at 65:21-66:5; *see also*, Mendoza 2019 Transportation Response at 16:2-23.)

In this regard, Mendoza Plaintiffs note that the District's refusal to comply with the Court's 6/15/20 Order further confounds the Court's efforts to address this issue. Simply put, it has provided no response to the Court's directive in footnote 11 of the 6/15/20 Order (at page 13): "The District shall confirm its use of the same travel distance parameters as applied [to Hollinger] to determine that existing self-contained GATE schools were available, i.e., reasonably accessible to all qualified students¹⁸, which the Court assumes was a travel distance of approximating 20 to 30 minutes to a self-contained GATE school, including open and cluster programs. If this assumption is wrong, the District shall clarify

participation in ALEs in the hope that as with the example cited in the preceding footnote, the District can address this failing before it submits its further revised Plan on September 1. In the section discussing the limitation of costs by utilizing existing routes rather than adding routes, TUSD says that a "challenge with this strategy is that it may make it harder

to integrate a magnet school if the District is also offering free transportation to a nearby non-magnet school – it may diminish the attractiveness of the magnet as the free transportation 'carrot' is key to recruiting." (Transportation Plan at 5.) Tellingly, the Pla

transportation 'carrot' is key to recruiting." (Transportation Plan at 5.) Tellingly, the Plan fails to set forth any criteria according to which the District will determine whether the cost saving outweighs the risk of reducing integration of a given magnet school or what steps it will put in place to reduce such a risk. Mendoza Plaintiffs believe these matters

25 should be addressed in the plan.

¹⁸ Indeed, it is difficult to believe that this is the case particularly for elementary school students for whom long travel times are of greatest concern given that four of the five elementary self-contained programs are in schools that are clustered in the middle of the eastern portion of the District (Kellond, Lineweaver, Wheeler, and Roberts-Naylor) and the fifth (White) is in the southwest quadrant. (*See* school maps on the TUSD website.)

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the record as to what it considers a reasonable travel distance and identify the number of qualified self-contained GATE students living beyond that travel distance as 'not having access to a self-contained GATE.' The ALE Policy Manual shall confirm that there are no Transportation Plan remedies for any such lack of access."

The Mendoza Plaintiffs request that the District be required to comply with the portion of the Court's Order 6/15/20 set forth above and to revise its Transportation Plan (and, potentially, the location of self-contained GATE programs particularly at the elementary school level) based on the results of the ordered assessments.

Open Access GATE

So far as Mendoza Plaintiffs can determine, there is no reference to transportation to schools offering open access GATE programs in the Transportation Plan and certainly no discussion of the role of transportation in decisions regarding growth or expansion of open access GATE. Mendoza Plaintiffs understand that there is free transportation to the open access GATE program at Tully because Tully is a magnet school (and arguably included in the Transportation Plan's discussion of magnet school transportation). However, it is only by reading the ALE Policy Manual (at page 11) that one can learn that the District limits free transportation to Roberts-Naylor to participate in the open-access GATE middle school program to those students who have attended Tully. Mendoza Plaintiffs object to this limitation and request that the District be ordered to provide free transportation to all participants in the Roberts-Naylor open-access GATE strand if they live outside the school's "walk zone". They additionally object to the failure of the Transportation Plan to discuss the role of transportation in decisions regarding growth or expansion of its open access GATE program.

Dual Language

The Transportation Plan fails to comply with the Court's direction relating to planning for transportation for attendance at TWDL schools. It includes the statement that TUSD provides free transportation to any student enrolled in a TWDL program who lives outside the "walk zone" for the school in which that student is enrolled (Transportation Plan at 3), but fails to include any discussion of the role of transportation in decisions regarding growth or expansion of TWDL programs notwithstanding that so much of the 6/15/20 Order expressly required the Plan to "clarify transportation as a criterion for selecting future candidates for ...non-ALE dual language TWDL schools." (6/15/20 Order at 25:1-3.) The Court should now require compliance with that Order.

Express Shuttles

As an initial proposition, Mendoza Plaintiffs note that TUSD has failed to comply with so much of the Court's 6/15/20 Order as required it to clarify that the express shuttles are "transporting students from racially concentrated school neighborhoods or incentive zones to schools where the student's enrollment is improving integration of the receiving school. Alternatively, free express shuttles may transport students, living beyond school attendance boundaries, to schools hosting qualifying programs." (6/15/20 Order at 24:2-8.) The Transportation Plan reports that the Sabino express shuttle is "part of the incentive transportation program" and lists the race and ethnicity of the students riding that shuttle but fails to indicate whether they are traveling from racially concentrated school neighborhoods. (Transportation Plan at 4.) The District tries to justify the Santa Rita express shuttle on the alternative ground that it is providing transportation to a school that hosts "qualifying programs." However, it points primarily to the school's programs for

career readiness which are not qualifying programs because they are not ALEs. It also 1 2 3 4 5 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

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27 28 ¹⁹ Indeed, the District has failed to provide the ordered viable target number for additional dual credit courses at its high schools other than Santa Rita or a plan for reaching that target. Rather it asserts, as it does with respect to all ALE expansion planning, that it cannot do so "out of the context of a particular budget year and without knowing which certified teachers will be available to teach at each school." (ALE Policy Manual at 6.)

The District's statement in 2017 that it was unable to create alternative routes to

reduce travel time to self-contained GATE schools due to budget constraints (9/6/18 Order

at 65:23-66:5) calls into question the repeated statements in the July 2020 Transportation

Plan that transportation costs are "generally not a factor" in the growth or expansion of the

self-contained GATE program or any other ALE program. (Transportation Plan at 6-7.)

says that the express shuttle affords access to the school's dual credit courses but fails to show that the four students in question actually are enrolled in the dual credit courses. Moreover, the Plan (and the ALE Policy Manual to a great extent as well) ignore the Court's express adoption of the Special Master's recommendation that "Dual Credit (HS-CC) courses need to be expanded beyond existing levels of 'one or more'." Were such courses to be expanded as directed it could well be that the four students currently riding the express shuttle to Santa Rita would elect to enroll in dual credit courses in their home school. (Mendoza Plaintiffs separately question the cost benefit analysis that the District apparently asserts supports providing free transportation for four students to attend Santa Rita in lieu of their home school and also suggest that given the opening of the new Innovation Tech High School (nowhere discussed in the Transportation Plan) students might well elect to that school rather than Santa Rita if their primary interest were in programs for career readiness.)

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Further, Mendoza Plaintiffs do not understand, and the District has provided no data to support its assertion that expansion of self-contained GATE and GATE cluster programs to a new school or adding a classroom to an additional school "does not increase transportation costs, as fewer students need transportation to access a self-contained GATE program" or a full time GATE cluster program. (Transportation Plan at 6, 7.) Mendoza Plaintiffs do not understand how expansion to a new school or addition of additional classrooms leads to fewer students needing transportation. By way of example, Mendoza Plaintiffs do not understand how the addition of grades 7 and 8 to the Hollinger TWDL GATE program and the movement of students from the Pistor TWDL GATE program to Hollinger would not have entailed transportation costs (even assuming that a significant number of the participants in the program had attended Hollinger through grade 6) since, assuming Mendoza Plaintiffs are reading the boundary maps correctly, students who might have been in the "walk zone" for Pistor, would not be in the "walk zone" for Hollinger. Similarly, with respect to the creation of the 7th and 8th grade open access GATE strand at Roberts-Naylor, Mendoza Plaintiffs do not understand how the provision of free transportation to students who had attended Tully to enable them to participate in the program would not have entailed cost. (And, as noted above, Mendoza Plaintiffs believe that that cost might indeed need to be greater to meet their objection to limiting the offer of free transportation to only those program participants who attended Tully.)

For all reasons stated above, the Court should direct the District to conduct the assessments set forth in its 6/15/20 Order and revise its Transportation Plan based on the information gleaned from those assessments and the specific substantive objections set forth above.

1	CONCLUSION	
2	The Court should deny the District's request for relief, require it to comply with this	
3	Court's Orders of 9/6/18 and 6/15/20 and award the further specific relief set forth in each	
4	Argument section above.	
5	Respectfully submitted,	
6	Respectionly submitted,	
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8	Dated: August 10, 2020 PROSKAUER ROSE LLP	
9 10	LOIS D. THOMPSON JENNIFER L. ROCHE	
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12	/s/Lois D. Thompson Attorney for Mendoza Plaintiffs	
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14	MALDEF JUAN RODRIGUEZ	
15	THOMAS A. SAENZ	
16	/s/Juan Rodriguez Attorney for Mendoza Plaintiffs	
17	Theories for Mendoza Flamento	
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1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I hereby certify that on August 10, 2020, I electronically submitted the foregoing MENDOZA PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO TUSD SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE AND REPORT OF COMPLIANCE AND LIMITED REQUEST FOR RELIEF 3 FROM ORDER (DOC. 2500) to the Office of the Clerk of the United States District 4 Court for the District of Arizona for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following CM/ECF registrants: 5 6 P. Bruce Converse bconverse@dickinsonwright.com Timothy W. Overton 8 toverton@dickinsonwright.com Samuel Brown 10 samuel.brown@tusd1.org 11 Robert S. Ross Robert.Ross@tusd1.org 12 Rubin Salter, Jr. 13 rsjr@aol.com 14 Kristian H. Salter 15 kristian.salter@azbar.org 16 James Eichner james.eichner@usdoj.gov 17 Shaheena Simons 18 shaheena.simons@usdoj.gov 19 Peter Beauchamp peter.beauchamp@usdoj.gov 20 21 Special Master Dr. Willis D. Hawley wdh@umd.edu 22 23 /s/ Mariana Esquer Dated: August 10, 2020 Mariana Esquer 24 25 26 27 28